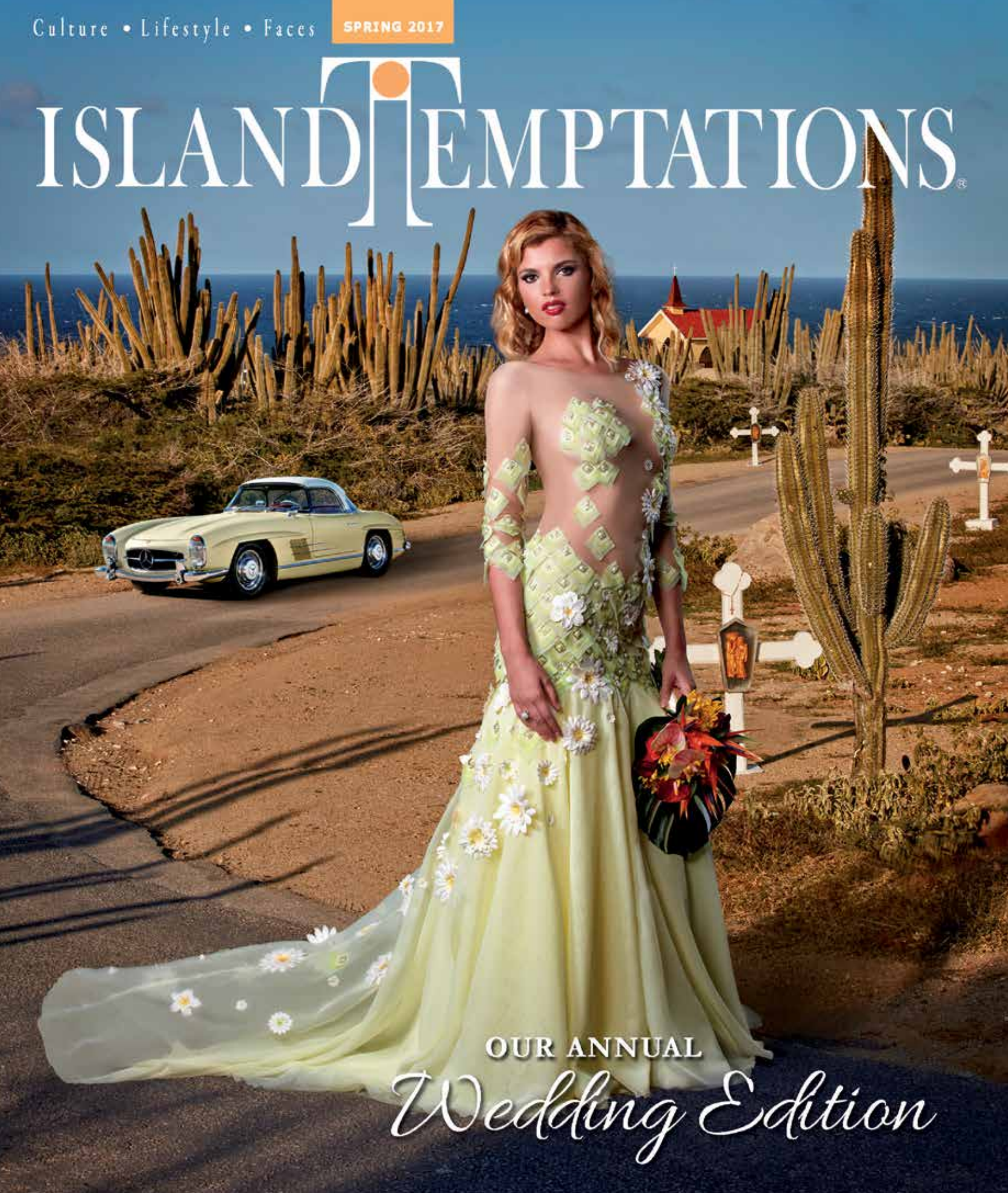
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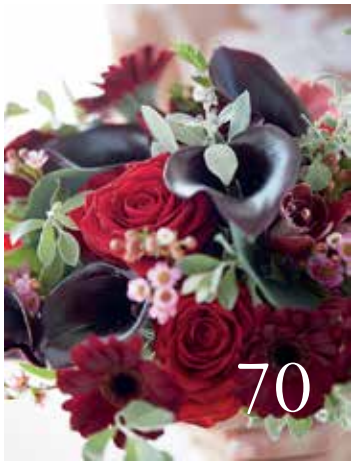

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# Island Temptations

## A promise to our readers

Our crew is dedicated to going beyond beaches to bring our readers the sights, sounds, and tastes of Aruba. Each edition will contain fresh features and photography spotlighting the local personalities that make this island such a remarkable corner of the world.

Our writers will continue to peel back the cultural layers and introduce you to the talented artists, musicians, chefs, and everyday folk who make Aruba "One Happy Island" and a place you will want to return to again and again.

The *Island Temptations* Crew

## Our Front COVER

Aruba's historic Alto Vista Chapel provides the setting for this dress by local designer Rhona Lemminga. Modeled by Elaine Voorderhaak. Art direction by Tina Causey-Bislick, and photography by Steve Keith. Hair and makeup by Indulgence by the Sea. Jewelry by David Yurman, available exclusively at Gandelman.



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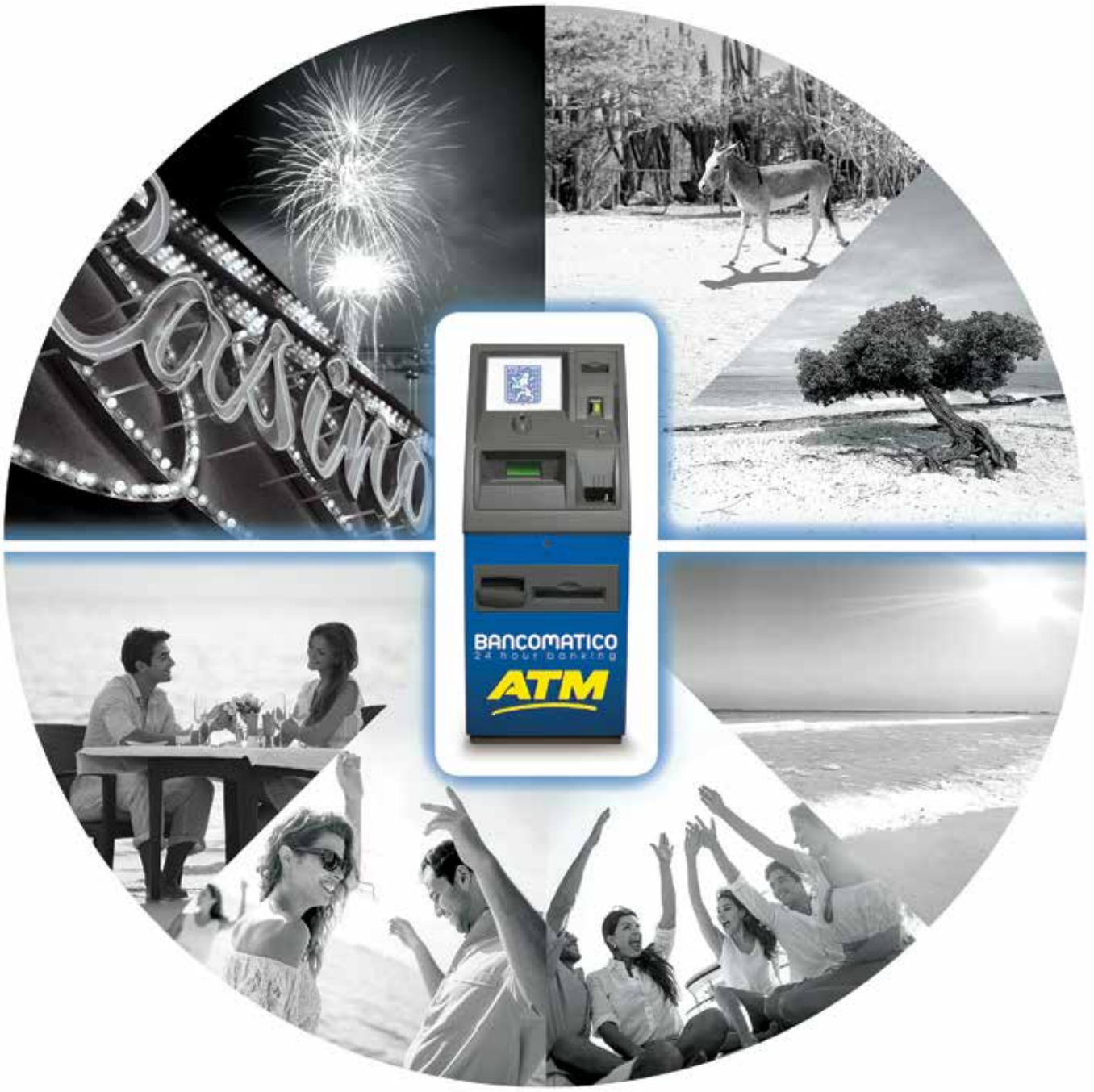
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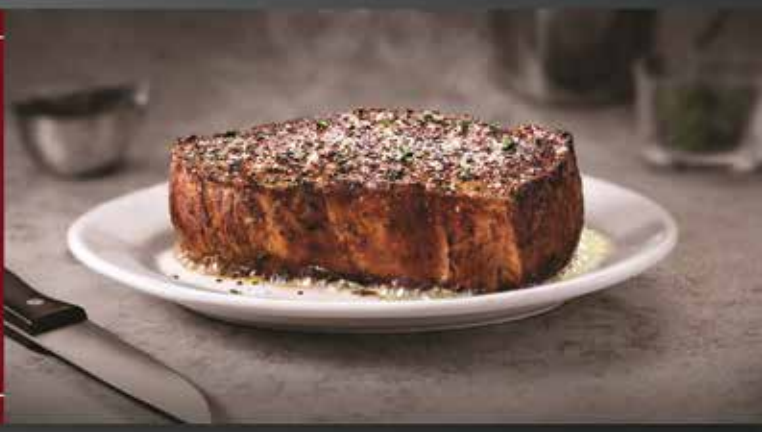
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# LET THE *Celebrations Begin!*

Text and Art Direction by Tina Causey-Bislick
Photography by Steve Keith



Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino Aruba



# Breathtaking island wedding receptions for 2017










Love






Most will agree, the best part of a wedding is the reception. The formality and jitters of the "I dos" are over, the couple can let out a big exhale, and we all get to eat! The reception is a time when the couple can express themselves through the elements they chose for their reception—from food and flowers to the décor and entertainment—which reflect their individual and combined tastes. After all, it's their first time as a married couple to break bread with family and friends!

Here on Aruba, the destination-wedding scene is growing every year, and those who contribute to this genre of tourism—from wedding planners and decorators to florists and culinary teams—work very hard to stay on top of their game and on-trend.

We tasked six resorts to each create a reception based on themes and styles in both food and beverage and décor. The results are impressive and make me want to get married (or at least have a reception) all over again! Oh, and these ideas are not specific to wedding receptions; any of these themes can be implemented for a variety of wedding-related events, including welcome parties, rehearsal dinners, bridesmaid or groomsmen events, engagement celebrations, anniversaries, and beyond.

A special thank you to all the resorts and their wedding, banquet, and culinary teams, as well as the following vendors who contributed their time and talents:

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Location: Beachfront at Divi Phoenix's pureocean restaurant



# Cocktails at 6

## Divi Phoenix Beach Resort Aruba

Whether you call them hors d'oeuvres, appetizers, tapas, tastes, small plates, or bites, allowing guests to graze at their leisure on a variety of foods presented in small or bite-sized portions assures that there is something on the menu for everyone and keeps your reception "fluid," encouraging guests to move around and mingle. Pairing beverages with food takes it to the next level, allowing guests to sample a variety of drinks while also upping the "wow" flavor factor of the cuisine. The Divi culinary team worked with local spirits distributor Pepia Est to present six winning food-drink combos, where flavors, colors, and presentations were all considerations.

The décor reflected a tasteful mix-and-match vintage look with a bit of nautical inspiration tied in.
















## The Menu

- Mini fish tacos paired with mini margaritas
- Beef sliders paired with beer shots
- Lamb lollipops paired with gin and tonics
- Beef and shrimp brochettes paired with tequila sunrise tasters
- Seafood paella paired with white sangria
- Watermelon and feta bites paired with mini mojitos



## The Vendors

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- Letz Aruba
- Shar's Flowers
- Divi Resorts' culinary team
- Pepia Est (mixologists)














# Brunch at the Club



## Tierra del Sol Resort & Golf

The grounds of the clubhouse at Tierra del Sol—with expansive and stunning views of the Robert Trent Jones II desert links golf course, the California Lighthouse, and the coastline—offer couples a wedding venue that epitomizes casual Caribbean sophistication. We can think of no better setting for a wedding brunch than right here.

Much like the weekly Sunday brunch at The Restaurant at Tierra del Sol, this wedding reception, set up on the restaurant's back lawn, is served in small-plate style, allowing guests to sample a variety of tastes. For the décor, crisp white is softened with pink, blush, and cream flowers and a touch of lace for a classic wedding look.












## The Menu

- French toast with cinnamon butter, fresh fruit, and bacon
- Eggs Benedict with smoked salmon
- Lobster cappuccino with saffron cream and fresh herbs
- Mini croissants filled with pastry cream and drizzled with hot chocolate sauce
- Escargots and shrimp in a lightly spiced garlic sauce with fresh herbs
- Pan-seared sea bass with saffron quinoa, oyster mushrooms, asparagus truffle crème, and grilled pineapple & tomato antiboise

## The Vendors

- The Restaurant at Tierra del Sol's culinary team
- Koolman's Flower Shop
- The Perfect Team Event Planners



## Cocktail Inspiration

**Blackberry-Basil Brunch Punch**
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GARDEN
Love



# Bohemian Beach Chic



## Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino

This reception idea from the team at the Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino delivers the ultimate toes-in-the-sand wedding experience. The low-key, boho vibe is enriched with layers of bold and bright colors and fabrics of varying textures. Vases of differing sizes and shapes filled with loose flowers complement the relaxed setting.

The reception's seaside setting inspired a menu of seafood served small-plate style, as well as Caribbean lobster tail grilled tableside.



## The Menu

- Grilled Caribbean lobster
- Yellowfin-tuna salad with fresh orange segments, microgreens, roasted tomatoes, red-pepper mayonnaise, and a fresh lime dressing
- Red-snapper sashimi with cucumber, faro seeds, cilantro, and Madame Jeanette peppers, enhanced with orange foam and sesame & soy vinaigrette
- Scallops with crispy quinoa, garlic purée, microgreens, red-wine sea salt, Cape gooseberries, and basil vinaigrette
- Sea bass with a carrot purée and a port-wine reduction, grilled asparagus, radishes, and toasted almonds
- Red snapper with cauliflower purée, edamame, roasted olluco, and a creamy piquillo-pepper sauce

## The Vendors

- The Perfect Team Event Planners
- Marriott's banquet and culinary teams

















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# Caribbean Sophistication



## Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino

A formal, sophisticated event is not just relegated to a traditional setting like a ballroom. Aruba's creative decorators and florists can turn an outdoor locale like Hilton's beachside lawn venue into alfresco refinement with a touch of glam.

The classic white-on-white color scheme allows the silver and crystal of the centerpieces to shine and sparkle, adding understated drama to the look. If you look closely, you'll see that every table has a few unique elements while staying true to the overall décor theme. This elegant setup is ideal for a more formal, plated dinner. The Hilton showcases menu items from its flagship restaurant, Sunset Grille, critically acclaimed for its steak, seafood, and pasta.











## The Vendors

- Sunset Grille's culinary team
- Letz Aruba
- Shar's Flowers





## The Menu

- Lobster bisque with a touch of brandy and sherry foam
- Burrata Caprese salad with beefsteak tomatoes
- Colossal-shrimp cocktail
- 100% Certified Angus Beef filet mignon















# Mediterranean Tapas Market



## The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba

Guests at this reception can graze on Mediterranean fare presented in a market-style buffet setting. In addition to a gourmet salad bar and an artisan-bread display, action stations featuring chef-carved meats and freshly prepared paella make for a lively reception experience.

A natural, rustic décor was chosen for the outdoor reception on the resort's lawn, located adjacent to the beachside wedding bridge. The tapas buffet is arranged on thick, wooden farmer's tables, with simple burlap overlays. Wooden bowls and platters and cast-iron cookware are used to display food. Floral accents provide a rich, deep pop of color to the décor. The seating area features round tables with gold tablecloths and gold Chiavari chairs, with a slightly different flower composition on each. The cocktail/bar area adds a bit of quirkiness and fun to the event, with old clocks, wardrobe trunks, and even an authentic antique Singer sewing machine woven into the setting.



## The Menu

- Gourmet salad bar (marinated olives, grilled mushrooms, pulpo a la gallega, pan con tomate, chorizo ibérico, jamón serrano, Manchego cheese, goat cheese, market salad, tortilla de patata, anchovies en vinagre, piquillo pepper & pulled pork, croquetas de bacalao, assorted breads)
- Local tomato & watermelon gazpacho
- Vegetable paella
- Papas bravas with smoked paprika
- Escalivada catalana
- Clams cacerola
- Mahi mahi de la lima
- Carved beef tenderloin
- Organic roasted chicken with rosemary and thyme





## The Vendors

- The Ritz-Carlton's culinary team
- Shar's Flowers
- House of Mosaic

## Cocktail Inspiration

- Classic sangria
- The Ritz-Carlton's signature homemade limoncello martini



























# Enchantment in the Garden

## Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort & Casino

The garden wedding will always be a classic go-to—it radiates romance and fairy tales. The Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort & Casino recently unveiled a new event venue to add to its grand beach palapa, catering deck, and ballroom options. The area is known as the "Gold Mill Ruins," (inspired by the island's historic Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins) and is anchored by mammoth rubber trees that lend a mystical vibe to the setting. The Hyatt team chose this venue to showcase a decadent way to end a wedding reception.

The wedding cake is the traditional dessert served at wedding receptions, and that will certainly always be the case. However, many couples are opting to give their guests options, such as an array of confectionary delights, served in bite-sized portions so guests can sample their way through dessert. And like an hors d'oeuvre and cocktail reception, the presentation entices guests to get up from their seats and mingle, keeping the reception from becoming static.







## The Menu

- Mini cupcakes
- Mini brownies
- Assorted cookies
- Petite macaroons
- Mousse shooters
- Fruit, ganache, and lemon tartlets
- Assorted truffles
- Ladyfingers













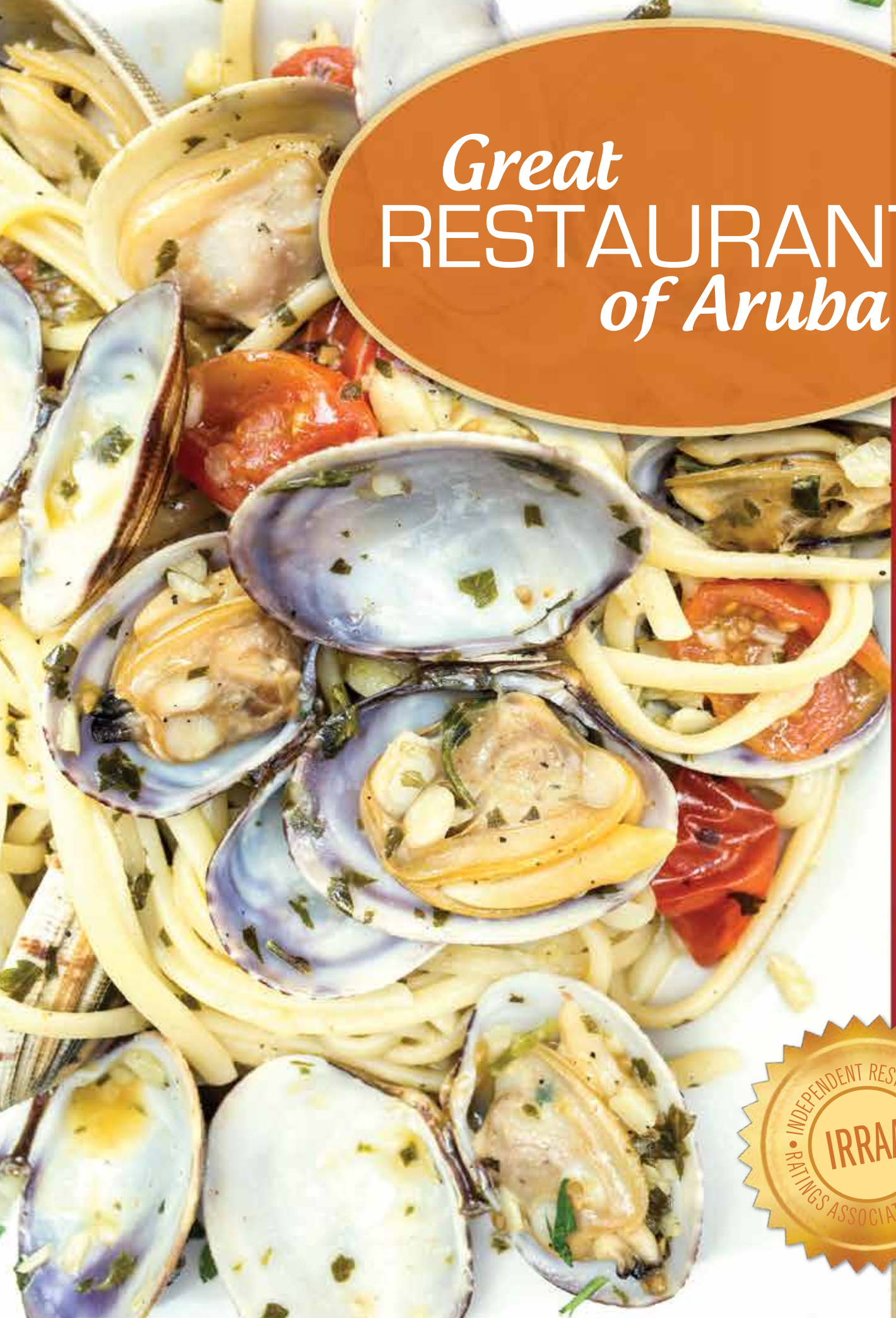


## Drink Inspiration

- Classic mimosa
- Prosecco with hibiscus

## The Vendors

- Hyatt's pastry team
- Koolman's Flower Shop
- House of Mosaic



# *Great* RESTAURANTS *of Aruba*

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## La Trattoria el Faro Blanco

*Italian Cuisine*
California Lighthouse
Phone 586-0786

## Gianni's Ristorante Italiano

*Italian Cuisine*
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*Dress designed by Christopher Marvin Martha*
*Jewelry by Miseno, available exclusively at*
*Gandelman's Renaissance Mall location*
*Location: Fontein Cave in Arikok National Park*

# Treasure the Dress!

## Local designers create wedding dresses inspired by Aruba's natural beauty

Text and Art Direction by Tina Causey-Bislick
Photography by Steve Keith

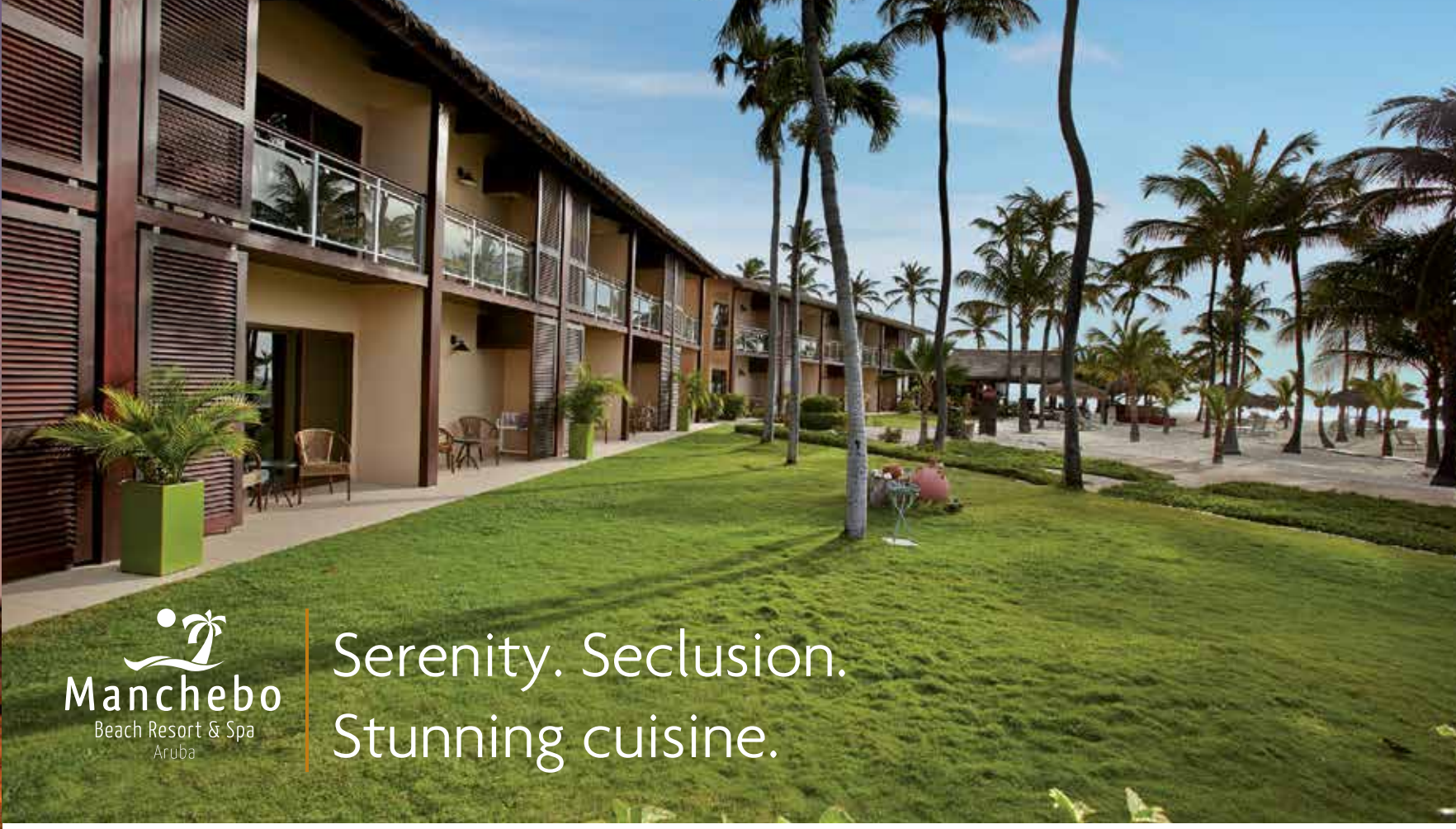
Don't trash it, treasure it! I'll admit it, I am not a fan of the "trash the dress" craze. Instead of ruining the dress by burning it, splashing paint all over it, or subjecting it to salty seawater, why not embrace the surroundings of your destination-wedding locale? Aruba has so many fascinating backdrops that are totally unique to the island and allow for a unique and authentic sense of place for any bride's portrait.

Our wedding-dress editorial, featuring locally designed creations, embraces iconic Aruban landmarks, such as Alto Vista Chapel, California Lighthouse, and Fontein Cave, as well as lesser-known landscapes in our countryside. International fashion and lifestyle photographer Steve Keith works his artistic magic behind the camera and computer to create captivating, surreal imagery.

All jewelry from Gandelman Jewelers, with locations at Renaissance Mall, Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort & Casino, and Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino.



*Dress designed by Heidi Munzenhoffer for Creation Aimee*
*Jewelry by David Yurman, available exclusively at Gandelman*
*Location: California Lighthouse*



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*Dress designed by Heidi Munzenhoffer for Creation Aimee*
*Bulgari jewelry, available exclusively at Gandelman*
*Location: Arashi Beach*




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*Dress designed by Ronchi de Cuba*
*Jewelry by David Yurman, available exclusively at Gandelman*
*Location: Aruba's countryside*

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*Dress designed by Gigliola Gomez*
*Jewelry by David Yurman, available exclusively at Gandelman*
*Location: Aruba's countryside*

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*Dress by Morilee, available at Creation Aimee*
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*Location: Aruba's countryside*

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*Dress designed by Ronchi de Cuba*
*Bulgari jewelry, available exclusively at Gandelman*
*Location: Aruba's countryside*

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Aruba

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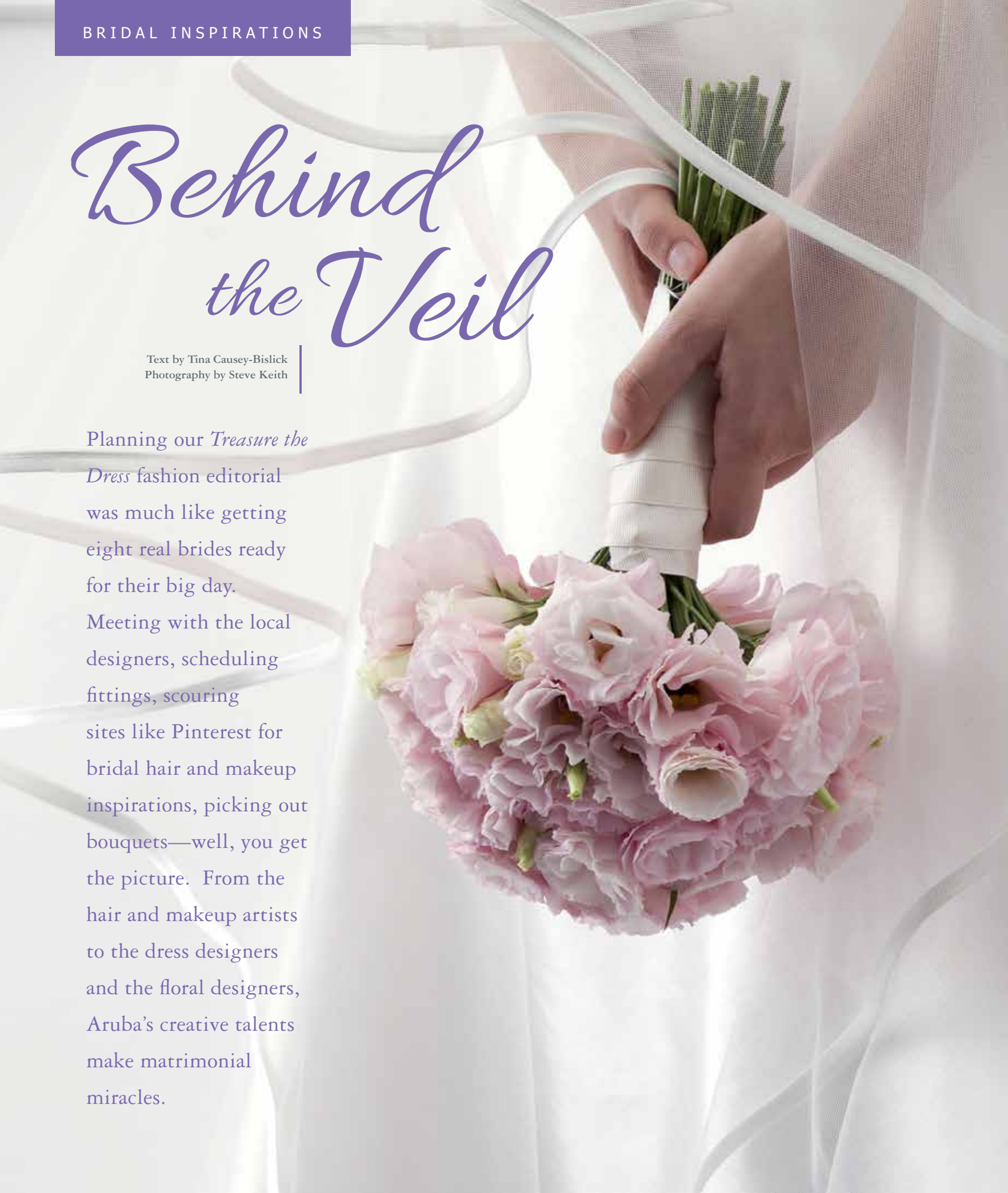


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# Behind the Veil

Text by Tina Causey-Bislick
Photography by Steve Keith

Planning our *Treasure the Dress* fashion editorial was much like getting eight real brides ready for their big day. Meeting with the local designers, scheduling fittings, scouring sites like Pinterest for bridal hair and makeup inspirations, picking out bouquets—well, you get the picture. From the hair and makeup artists to the dress designers and the floral designers, Aruba's creative talents make matrimonial miracles.



# Designers



## Heidi Munzenhoffer

More than a decade ago, Heidi appeared on our front cover, and has modeled for several fashion editorials in *Island Temptations* over the years. But Heidi's full-time gig is creative director and dress designer for island bridal boutique Creation Aimee. She's also a full-time mom to three children, Ethan, Hailey, and Jeanluc.



## Rhona Lemminga

Queen of Aruba's Carnival costume designs, Rhona recently began dipping her creative toes into designing wedding dresses. The designer studied at the Fashion Academy Marja van Riel in the Netherlands, and she is a fashion instructor at local school EPB/Hato.



## Gigliola Gomez

This international designer launched her own label, Gigliola Designs, in 2005 and has been making her mark globally ever since. She has designed collections for Miss Teen Aruba and Miss World Curaçao, presented collections during Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week in Amsterdam, and most recently, premiered her *Mystique Collection Resort* during Aruba Fashion Week 2016.



## Christopher Marvin Martha

Designer, stylist, art director, visual merchandiser—this young talent is all over Aruba's fashion scene. A fashion fanatic from a very young age, Christopher has designed several original collections for local beauty pageants throughout his blossoming career. Three of his original designs were featured in the Summer 2016 edition of *Island Temptations.*



## Ronchi de Cuba

Ronchi has been our go-to fashion collaborator at *Island Temptations* since we launched our first edition in 2002. Designing for two labels, owning and operating fashion boutique TRASH by RONCHI, and being named by *USA Today* on its "10 Best of Aruba" list are just a few of his accomplishments. Ronchi is also the stylist for the reigning Miss Universe Aruba, Charlene Leslie.

# Hair & Makeup













Phone: +297-586-1234
Website: https://aruba.regency.hyatt.com/hyatt/pure/spas/

Located at the Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort & Casino, Zoia is a peaceful escape for the bride on her wedding day. The bridal party can enjoy relaxing spa treatments, followed by hair and makeup on the big day.

Hair and makeup artist Omaira Chavez was the talent behind two of our looks.

For Heidi, we needed a sassy 1960s-esque feel to complement the mini-dress style of her bridal frock. Loose curls were created in Heidi's long hair, then teased into a half-up/half-down top-knot style. For makeup, Omaira used shimmery neutrals and soft pinks, but added drama with winged eyeliner.

Digene's flowing dress called for a classic look. To create a full but somewhat loose, sophisticated low bun, a clip-on hair piece was added (these clip-on hair extensions are very popular for brides wanting to add volume and/or length for their wedding day style). Bronzy neutrals paired with coral lips left Digene fresh and glowing.



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Website: http://www.tierradelsol.com/en/the-spa-at-tierra-del-sol

Tierra del Sol Resort & Golf is home to The Spa, where a full-service salon offers a spectacular view of the golf course and sea to go along with hair and makeup services. Stylist Andy Martinez delivered two completely different hair and makeup compositions for two of our models.

Dress designer Christopher Marvin Martha wanted lots of drama to go with his design. We mulled over a few possibilities and decided on a sexy, messy updo. Andy curled Kimberly's hair with a curling iron, then rolled the curled strands into pin curls before applying an edgy look of dark, smoky eyes paired with deep crimson red lips. Andy then unraveled the pin curls, teased and sprayed, and teased and sprayed some more to create a perfectly unperfect updo.

Andy adored Emily's Afro. She had been straightening her hair since she was a little girl, but recently decided to embrace her natural hair. No way were we going to hide it by pulling it back into a bun, so Andy merely shaped it and accented it with a jeweled headband. Emily's golden skin tone and adorable freckles called for a light makeup palette of earth tones with gold highlights. The lips popped with a bright coral shade topped off with gloss (yes, lip gloss is back in style in a big way!).













## Bruce Stamper

Phone: +297-731-2200
Facebook: Makeup by Bruce Stamper

Bruce is a freelance hair and makeup artist on the go. He is a favorite of many destination brides, as he can come right to the hotel room or wedding venue with all the tools needed to walk down the aisle in style. Weddings are Bruce's favorite assignments, and he often finds himself becoming emotional and tearing up right along with the bride. "I find it such a privilege to witness that moment when the father comes for his daughter's hand for the last time before he gives his baby away," shared Bruce. Bruce came on set to deliver two different braided styles on models Dana and Cathe, who both have amazingly thick, long hair to work with.

For Dana, the hair was curled with a curling iron, then swept into a loose fishtail braid with a few loose tendrils. Dana's shoot was in a wild garden setting, so Bruce kept the makeup soft and demure, with a dewy complexion set off with strategic contouring and highlighting.

Cathe's dress was elegant and refined, calling for a full updo. Bruce didn't want it too stiff and formal, so he kept the updo loose and slightly unstructured, with a single side braid woven in and several loose, long, wavy strands around the face to add some sexiness to the style. For makeup, a very clean look matched the high-collar formality of the dress. I was surprised to see Bruce use a richly pigmented, dense copper shadow on Cathe's lids, but the result was stunning and complemented the watermelon lips.

Phone: +297-525-5291
Website: http://spaaruba.com/

One of three spas on the island owned and operated by Angie Wallace, Indulgence by the Sea is located at the Divi Tamarijn Aruba. This location is dedicated to manicures and pedicures, as well as hair and makeup services.

The Hollywood glam look of Elaine's dress called for hair and makeup reminiscent of a 1940s MGM movie star. To achieve this, stylist Angel Sotillo went to work curling Elaine's shoulder-length bob. He then teased the roots and rolled the hair into pin curls while Yasunari Molina applied makeup. We learned a new trick from Yasunari: Apply Scotch tape to the corner of the eye to act as a guide and barrier when brushing on eye shadow to achieve the perfectly edged cat eye. Glossy, ruby red lips completed the screen-siren look. While Angel went to work on our next model, two stylists pulled out Elaine's pin curls, teased and sprayed, and teased and sprayed some more (I see a trend here!).

While Elaine was busy becoming a star of the silver screen, Christy jumped into Angel's chair for a more angelic look. Braids are all over the bridal magazines and Pinterest, and Christy was one of three models that had some variation of braids. Angel started by adding soft curls to the ends of Christy's hair. The top half of the hair was then put into a bouffant bun. A sideswept strand was braided across the crown of the head and to the back of the bun, while the remaining tresses were loosely woven in underneath. The result was a structured, sophisticated bun softened by the braid and the loosely tucked pieces.












"I wanted my wedding to be magical and out of this world. When the day finally came I was absolutely blown away. Thank you!" - Meghan

LOCATION: SAN NICOLAS, ARUBA

DECOR: PERFECT TEAM



"Our wedding was an unforgettable experience! Thanks to the dedicated staff of Elite Productions that made our dream day picture perfect" - Susan

LOCATION: HYATT REGENCY ARUBA





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Emil

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# Bouquets

Three of the island's top florists created bouquets for our fashion editorial, each arrangement distinctively beautiful. Just about any flower variety and color a bride can dream of can be ordered from South America, the United States, or Holland and shipped to Aruba.

## Shar's Flowers

Shar Chatrum is a busy lady! Her work is admired by many island wedding planners and resorts, and her creativity is showcased throughout our feature on wedding receptions.

Phone: +297-583-2727
Website: www.sharsflowers.com

### Deep into the Forest

Dark violet mini calla lilies, red roses, burgundy gerberas, and crimson *Cymbidium* orchids are accented with sage greenery.



### Virginal Seduction

Roses go hand in hand with romance, while orchids are said to represent seduction and beauty. Tulips perfectly round out the arrangement. Shar's white, cream, and blush blooms are set off by a menagerie of greenery of varying shapes and textures, presented in a loosely constructed style.





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## Elsa's Flower Shop

Robert Geerman took over his mother's flower shop, which is a Santa Cruz institution, called upon for just about any occasion on the island.

Phone: +297-585-8128
Facebook: elsaflowershop

### Exotic Paradise

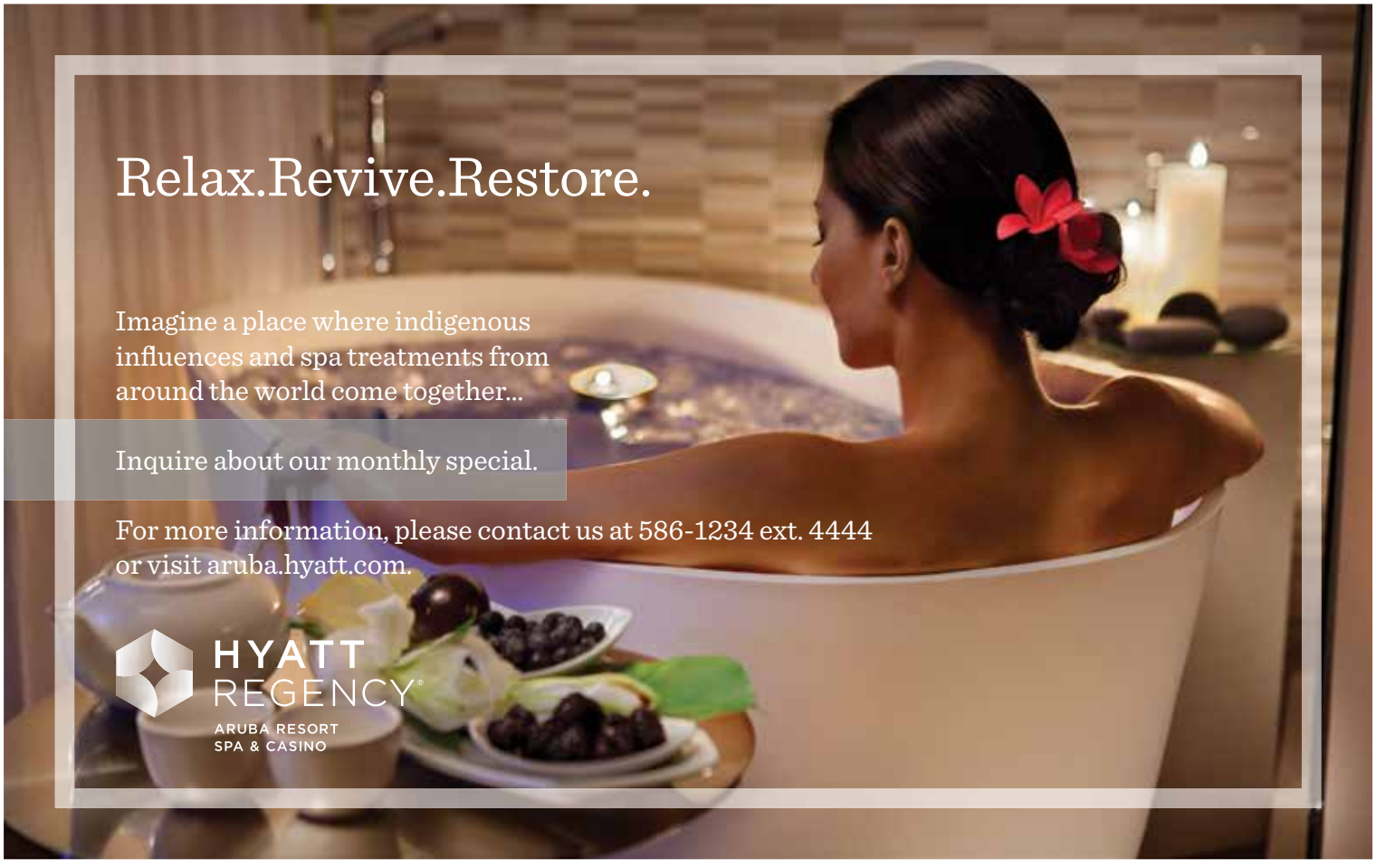
This tropical bouquet is anchored by the stunning bird of paradise, accompanied by a colorful combination of anthuriums, roses, spider mums, and mini calla lilies.

### Lavender Love (page 81)

Simple, sophisticated, classic…there really is no other way to describe a bouquet of traditional roses. Lavender is one of the rarer rose colors, and lavender blooms are said to represent enchantment and royalty—perfect for a princess-bride look.






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## Koolman's Flower Shop

Greta Koolman is one of the premier event floral designers on the island, creating memorable flowers and décor for events of all types and sizes.

Phone: +297-582-3161
Facebook: koolmanflowers

### An Orchestra of Orchids

Elegant and exotic, this thick, compact bouquet of *Cymbidium* orchids, with thin palm leaves woven in, is a smart choice for a beach wedding since orchids are thick and hardy blooms that hold up well in the heat.

### Going Dutch! (page 83)

A bride can embrace Aruba's Dutch heritage with a bouquet of colorful tulips flown in direct from where else but the land of tulips—Holland! Historically, tulips are said to represent enduring love and, interestingly, are the flowers representing the 11th wedding anniversary (who knew?).






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Visitors to Aruba now have the peace of mind knowing that a professional, full-service, walk-in medical clinic and a pharmacy are right at their doorstep in the high-rise hotel area of Palm Beach.

An experienced, multi-lingual staff welcomes visitors to a new, state-of-the-art facility. Service Pharmacy, with four additional locations on the island, is known for its broad selection and variety.

Stock up while you are on the island! Many medications are less expensive on Aruba than in the United States.

The walk-in family practice is attending to the medical needs of adults, children, and infants. Visitors to the island and locals are welcome.


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# Aruba Launches BEACH *brides*

ONE HAPPY ISLAND | ARUBA

Text by Tina Causey-Bislick

A vibrant and enchanting blog showcasing Aruba's destination-wedding scene was launched last November. The *Beach Brides* blog is a dynamic tool to reach couples during the planning stages, providing both inspiration and practical, relevant content to help them plan their perfect nuptial experiences on Aruba. The blog is one of a kind in the Caribbean, offering couples much more than the standard landing page available on most tourist board websites.

The blog—created with a soft, relaxed, dreamy, island-chic flair—is an online resource filled with ideas and details to help couples tailor their weddings with unique aspects of the island, from incorporating local traditions to choosing that special venue. Local vendors, including wedding planners, florists, photographers, caterers, musicians, and hair/makeup professionals, will also be featured on *Beach Brides*.

To keep the blog fresh and engaging, *Beach Brides* will be updated twice a week with featured weddings, advice from our local professionals for the big day, personal stories of other couples' wedding journeys on Aruba, and the latest bridal trends for island destination weddings.

The *Beach Brides* blog, which is linked to aruba.com and will soon be linked to Martha Stewart's wedding website, marthastewartweddings.com, is an initiative of the Aruba Tourism Authority, and can be found online at beachbrides.com.

On the following pages, six couples share their dream destination weddings, as seen on *Beach Brides*.

## *Family and friends help make a dream a reality*



Jasmine Norwood-Dioulo and Julian Dioulo were recently wed on the splendid shores of Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino's private island. Jasmine, from California, and Julian, from Texas, met while living and working in Washington, D.C. Both were at the same club dancing, reports Jasmine, and the chemistry was instant. Chemistry blossomed into love, with the couple eventually deciding to tie the knot. "A destination wedding on a white sand beach has always been my dream. Aruba is a gorgeous island, the people are beautiful and warm and welcoming, the food is amazing, the culture is rich, and to top it off, the humidity isn't outrageous. It's the ideal place for an exotic beach wedding," says Jasmine.

Jasmine highlighted that dreamy beach vision with a tasteful, chic approach to her wedding. The color scheme was comprised of various shades of coral and bellini with pops of turquoise and accents of gold. Jasmine's mom, aunts, and best friends collaborated back home on a few DIY projects to add a personal touch to the destination wedding. "When Julian and I saw everything that night, it brought tears to my eyes because not only was it beautiful, it was a reminder of how loved we are. People went out of their way to help make my dream a reality," the bride shares.








Dancing Shoes
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so they won't
miss a beat!





The events team at the Renaissance helped create an intimate vibe for the couple and their guests. "We wanted people to feel free to follow their hearts all night," reports Jasmine, who requested long, family-style tables with no seating chart, as well as a cozy lounge area with white couches and white lanterns. "The setup was a major hit!" exudes Jasmine. Jasmine reports that the food at the reception was amazing, the decorations were perfect, and there was dancing, dancing, and oh yes, more dancing!

Jasmine's dress was an Enzoani design from Love Couture Bridal in Potomac, Maryland. "My mom actually ended up picking my dress. We were about to say yes to another dress, and she spotted this one and said, 'Hey, slip into this one really quick—I just want to see it on.' I put it on and got chills! I never felt more beautiful, I didn't want to take it off, and Mom teared up a bit. It was everything I could have imagined—romantic, classic, sexy, had a long train, but it was also light. It's almost like it was made just for me, made to wear on a beach, and knowing that Mom picked it made my heart smile," recalls Jasmine. The groom wore a classic tan linen suit.

The Details:

Photography: Meg & Josh with Love is a Big Deal
Ceremony & reception location: Renaissance Island
Catering: Renaissance's culinary team
Officiate: Uncle Charles Carney
Entertainment: Deejay Jesse with Swing Masterz
Flowers: Elsa's Flowers
Wedding cake: Geert van Mil with The Patissier
Hair & makeup: Bruce Stamper

Bride's Final Thoughts:

*"The day after the wedding, we kept the party going! Julian and I chartered a catamaran through De Palm Tours and took our family on a snorkeling trip with open bar and good music. It made us so happy to see everyone bonding and having a blast. It was truly the best way to end our wedding weekend."*









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# And they called it puppy love...

Who needs bouquets when you can carry an adorable puppy down the aisle? Bride Jamie Geesaman and groom Herb Johnson, from Gorham, Maine, chose to honor a cause near and dear to their hearts by sharing the spotlight on their wedding day with dogs and puppies from Animal Rights Aruba and New Life for Paws Foundation—both local, nonprofit foundations that promote awareness and run foster/adoption programs for stray dogs and cats.

The couple have been vacationing in Aruba for years, and also own a timeshare at Divi Golf & Beach Resort. Jamie had always dreamed of a destination wedding on the island, and once the couple and Jamie's parents saw a wedding for another couple set up at Divi's Pure Ocean, it was a done deal!

Divi Resorts' in-house wedding planner, Aruba Weddings for You, handled all the details for the big day. To kick off the process, the couple met Inge van Roon, the director of banquet and events sales. Jamie shares the details of that fateful first meeting: "Herb and I were vacationing in Aruba last year, and had an appointment with Inge to talk about wedding planning and to start the process. We got to chatting and just getting to know each other when Inge was disrupted by a text message about a rescue dog in need, and went on to tell me about her rescue efforts on the island and the nonprofit she volunteers with. We instantly hit it off, trading rescue stories to the chagrin of my then fiancé! Herb doesn't get much of a break from my ranting and raving about rescue animals, so he was like, 'Oh great, our wedding planner is a crazy rescue lady too,' and I was like, 'THIS IS GREAT, OUR WEDDING PLANNER IS A CRAZY RESCUE LADY TOO!' It was a sign to me that we were meant to work with Inge and her team at AWFY, and I knew we made the right decision."

Originally, the couple planned to have a donation box at the wedding to encourage



donations for Animal Rights Aruba's spay and neuter program. Jamie's maid of honor sent her a Pinterest post with bridesmaids holding puppies instead of bouquets, and the bride was immediately sold on the idea. In addition to Animal Rights Aruba, the New Life for Paws Foundation participated.

And the happily-ever-after is not just for the couple—four of the puppies traveled with guests of the wedding to the United States, where representatives from the New Life for Paws Foundation picked them up to take them to their forever homes.

Amidst all the puppy love, a gorgeous wedding did take place on Palm Beach. The couple opted for a natural color palette of champagne, burlap, white, and a touch of red. Shares Jamie, "I wanted to keep the decorations fairly simple for the most part because after all, we were already having a sunset beach wedding in Aruba—the scene is already beautiful!"

For her dress, Jamie wanted to have a traditional gown style, but knew it also had to be light and practical for the warm island temperatures. She opted for a mermaid fit that went just to mid-thigh, finishing with a trumpet flare to the floor. "It was formal and with beautiful detail, but it wasn't super heavy to weigh me down, and it hugged my curves perfectly," the bride informs. She opted for a breezy, lighter dress for the reception.

The Details:

Photography: Bret Labelle Photography

Number of guests: 50

Ceremony location: Beachfront at Divi Phoenix Beach Resort

Reception location: Pure Ocean

Officiate: Gregory Lyder

Entertainment: Deejay Jesse with Swing Masterz

Beach wedding and reception planning: Aruba Weddings for You

Civil Hall wedding: Lissy Lampe with Ceremonies & Celebrations

Flowers: Koolman Flower Shop

Wedding cake: The Patissier

Bride's Final Thoughts:

*"I am so thankful we had the opportunity to get married in Aruba and that so many of our friends and family made the trip there with us. I have always had a special love for Aruba, but now it is an even more meaningful and special place to me and my husband."*





# Ecuador and Sweden unite in paradise

Nathalie Emanuele, a native of Ecuador, had always dreamed of a destination wedding. As fate would have it, Nathalie came across some images of The Ritz-Carlton Aruba while assisting her mother's company with marketing and social media. Her mother's company sold bricks for the then under-construction hotel in Aruba, and Nathalie knew this would be an ideal spot for her destination wedding one day. "My hopelessly romantic self started planning something without a boyfriend at that time," she amusingly explains.

Nathalie didn't have to wait too long for her knight in shining armor. She met Kristoffer Wedebrand, from Sweden, at a training seminar for Cisco, the company the two work for. "It was love at first sight for both of us. We were engaged within three months," says Nathalie.

The Ritz-Carlton Aruba was perfectly positioned, as Nathalie has lived in five countries across the globe, and the couple wanted a neutral place to accommodate family and friends traveling for the wedding. Planning a wedding can be challenging—especially doing it long-distance. "I lived in Europe while planning the wedding. I came to The Ritz once during the whole wedding prep. I needed my planning to be in good hands, and my mother also needed that peace of mind, and The Ritz didn't disappoint," shares Nathalie. "The Ritz was the center of it all—they (Macarena, The Ritz-Carlton Aruba wedding planner, in particular) took care of all the details, making it the most perfect day. We had a photo shoot around the island, a white rehearsal dinner, and a boat trip as well."



BEACH BRIDES
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The Menu:

A buffet with multiple action stations was presented by The Ritz-Carlton's culinary team, with chefs positioned at each station to prepare items fresh and to order. The stations included a farmer's market salad bar, an Aruban ceviche bar, a carvery station, a pasta station, and a mini dessert station to pair with the wedding cake.

The Details:

Photographer: Kenneth Theysen
Ceremony location: Beachfront at The Ritz-Carlton Aruba
Reception location: The Ritz-Carlton ballroom
Officiate: Geoffrey Banfield
Videographer: Ingmar Maduro
Flowers: Shar's Flowers
Décor: Letz Aruba



# Chi Town couple wed on Palm Beach

Chicago couple Paul Lebron and Mark Morton Lebron vacationed in Aruba back in 2014. "We had the most wonderful experience on the island," explain the couple, who stayed at the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino. "Because we enjoyed the experience at the Marriott so much, it was a no-brainer to celebrate our wedding and honeymoon at the Marriott," they add.

The couple wanted a colorful, "beachy" feel with a fuchsia and coral color scheme. "Corinne Willemsen, Jessika Panneflek, and the entire Marriott events and banquets team expertly handled every last detail of the reception—from the food to the décor to the flower arrangements—and even included the most beautifully strung lights. We had very high expectations for our big day, and the Marriott Resort actually exceeded our expectations!" the couple share. Regarding their attire, the couple explain, "We selected colors that complement the blue water and neutral sand. We went with a 'Hamptons' look—one that was polished, yet summery and casual. Most importantly, we wanted to dress appropriately for the warm weather of Aruba—hence the shorts and short-sleeved shirts."

## The Menu:

Guests enjoyed a sunset cocktail hour on the beach with hors d'oeuvres that included mini chicken quesadillas with cilantro Monterey Jack and avocado, and shrimp tempura sushi rolls. A sit-down dinner followed, featuring a choice of prime filet mignon or freshly caught red snapper.

## The Details:

Photographer: Victor Winklaar
Number of guests: 30
Ceremony location: Beachfront at the Marriott
Reception location: La Vista alfresco patio
Officiate: Geoffrey Banfield
Entertainment: Steel pan by Tiko Kock
Flowers: Shar's Flower Shop
Wedding cake: Francine Bardouille
Decoration: Letz Aruba and The Perfect Team
String lights: Every Aruba Events Specialists
Lighting: Elite Productions

## Couple's Final Thoughts:

*"Overall, we enjoyed a fairy-tale, magical wedding experience on the island and would recommend Aruba to any other couple considering a destination wedding! We had a total of 30 guests—many of whom traveled to Aruba for the first time—and all of our guests agreed that they're already looking forward to their next Aruba vacation."*








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# Simply romantic!

Maria and James Forgione were recently wed on the shores of Palm Beach. The bride wanted every detail to ooze romance, choosing a simple, elegant color palette of white and champagne, which was carried out from the ceremony to the décor at the reception and ballroom dinner.

The couple, from New York City's Middle Village, had no doubts about the setting for their romantic nuptials. "Aruba is my favorite island! It has everything you want all in one place: the beautiful beaches, the pathways to all the hotels, the restaurants and shops, and nightlife," explains Maria.

Maria's all-lace Pronovias wedding dress, with an alluring sheer bodice, set a dreamy tone for the beachside wedding, where all the flowers and décor were washed in white. The bridesmaids' papaya-colored dresses added a delicate splash of Caribbean flair to the wedding. The groom and groomsmen wore classic beige linen suits.

## The Menu:

The wedding, culinary, and banquet teams of the Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort & Casino coordinated all the details. After the ceremony, guests were ushered from the beach to the resort's beach-deck venue for a lavish cocktail and hors d'oeuvre reception. Guests noshed on charred lamb and Moroccan vegetable relish in phyllo cups, lobster medallions on local *pan bati* (a bit like sweet corn pancakes), hand-crusted coconut shrimp, and offerings from several action stations, including a rustic pasta station, sushi station, shellfish display, and a station of chef-carved roasted tenderloin. The cocktail reception was concluded with a sparkler send-off.

The wedding party and guests were then led down the garden path to the resort's ballroom for a formal, seated dinner. Local event designer Fernando Mansur, of House of Mosaic, continued the romantic and elegant theme with lots of sheer white draping, gold Chiavari chairs, an all-white lounge area by the dance floor, and a modern version of the Indian mandap for the couple's sweetheart table.

The four-course dinner was followed by a decadent dessert buffet to complement the wedding cake. The buffet included assorted spiced truffles, passion-fruit crème brûlée, Aruban coconut tarts, mango shooters, and a variety of miniature pastries and cookies. After dinner, a deejay kept the party going until the wee hours of the morning.

## The Details:

Photography: Victor Winklaar
Number of guests: 139
Ceremony location: Beachfront at the Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort & Casino
Cocktail-reception location: Hyatt's beach-deck venue
Dinner location: Hyatt's ballroom
Décor for ballroom: Fernando Mansur with House of Mosaic
Flowers: Shar's Flowers
Wedding cake: Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort & Casino
Lighting & A/V: Elite Productions
Hair & makeup: Tonya Cuozzo for Cuozzo Studio at Indulgence by the Sea Spa

## Bride's Final Thoughts:

*"The Hyatt is the perfect place to have a wedding! It offered a private setting for the wedding celebration—from the beach ceremony to cocktail hour on the sun deck to the pathway entrance to the ballroom! It felt like the hotel grounds were ours for the day!"*

# A double dose of romance in Aruba

New Jersey couple Stephanie and Richard marked two of the most important days of romance as a couple on the island of Aruba. Richard surprised Stephanie with a proposal at Chalet Suisse with a dessert asking "Will you marry me?" in chocolate, caramel, and raspberry syrup on the plate. One year later, the couple sealed the deal with a wedding and reception on the shores of Aruba's Palm Beach.

Stephanie worked with the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino's on-site wedding planner, Lisa Dammerman, to bring a vintage romantic feel to the festivities. The bride chose an understated, classic color theme of sage, beige, and white, letting the backdrop of the vibrant aqua tones of the sea, followed by the rose and amber hues of the sunset, stand out. Her all-white flower bouquet was composed of hydrangeas, lilies, and calla lilies. The bridesmaids carried simple bouquets of sage.

Stephanie's dress was by Mori Lee and featured a strapless sweetheart neckline, Venice lace appliqué, English lace, and a trumpet skirt. The bride incorporated sentimental touches:

- She carried a white clutch that her mother also carried at her wedding.
- The pearl necklace she wore belonged to her paternal grandmother, who recently passed away.
- The diamond and sapphire ring she wore belonged to her maternal grandmother, who also passed away.

For the reception, Stephanie was thrilled with Lisa's idea to create a canopy of twinkling white lights over the dance floor on the beach. She also had quaint lounges and cabanas set up for guests.

## The Menu:

Guests enjoyed a cocktail reception with heavy hors d'oeuvres, followed by a dinner that offered several action stations, including an Italian pizza station with grilled vegetables, a variety of dips, cheeses, and Italian breads, and several pasta dishes; a carving station with roasted tenderloin; a chicken station with chicken Francaise in a butter, lemon, and caper sauce with jasmine rice; and a lobster station with lobster tails and potatoes au gratin. The wedding cake had a marble cake base with fresh strawberry filling.












The Details:

Photography: Kenny Theysen

Ceremony location: Beachfront at the Hilton

Reception location: Beachfront at the Hilton

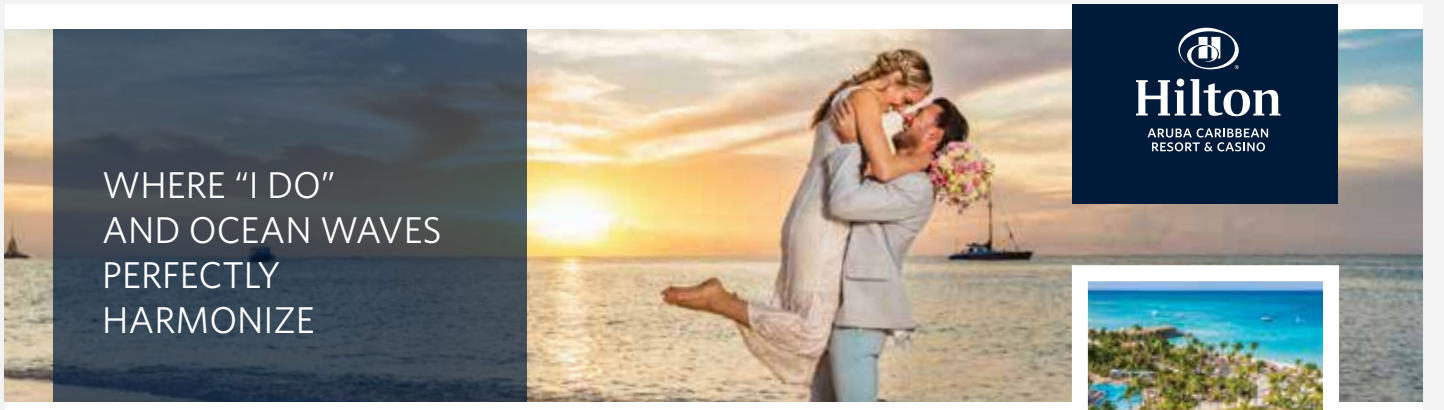
Flowers: Shar's Flower Shop

Wedding cake: Phillip Maduro

Hair & makeup: Jennifer Cores-Veeris

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HILTON HHONORS

# Rona Coster delights with new book, *Island Life: Aruba's Best-Kept Diary*

Proofreading tends to be a robotic task—comma must go here, must fix this dangling participle, must shorten this run-on sentence. It's easy to get caught up in the mechanics. But if the writing is really good—really worth its salt—the proofreader's job becomes a lot more fun. Between fixing spelling errors and hyphenating words, the proofreader can enjoy a good chuckle or appreciate a novel observation or even learn something new.

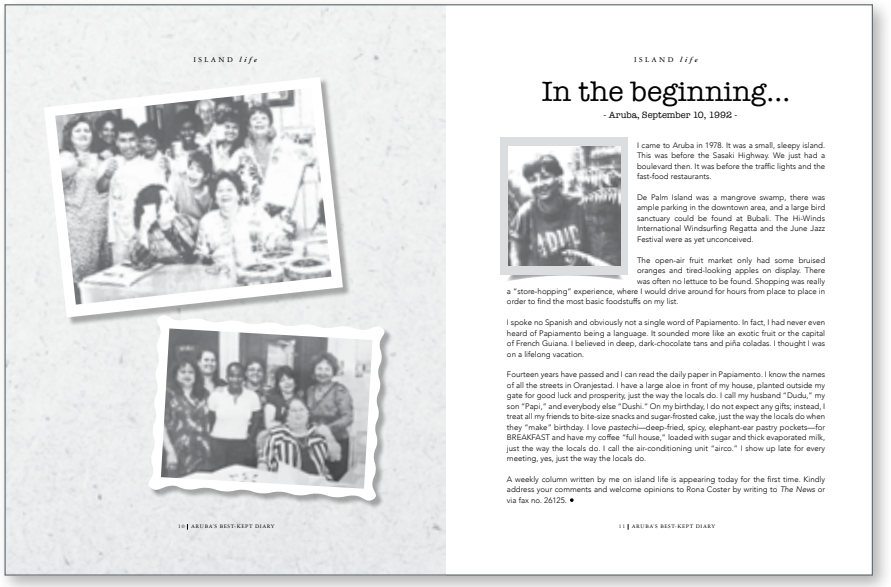
I've proofread for Rona many times, but this time was different. There's something about these news stories that's so clever, unexpected, unguarded, zany, even genius at times. Aha! I just described Rona! And that's just it—that's what makes these stories so good, so worth their salt. The reader can sense that she was truly invested in each and every one of these stories. Her unique personality emanates from each piece, and isn't that one of the hallmarks of an excellent writer?

Not many writers can make a story about the government's installation of directional signs on the island so funny, engaging, and personal. But Rona can. I know how heavenly the local *bolo preto* (black cake) is, but I've never been able to put it into words as effectively as Rona has. She playfully mocks at all the right places, ties totally unrelated topics together in astonishing ways, explores her subjects from the angles less taken, and has the patience and determination to extract details from her sources in a way that goes far beyond standard journalism.

In other words, she is a master storyteller. Yes, she tells of national treasures in her stories, but this book is a national treasure in and of itself. – Debbie Kunder




UNOCA


ISLAND *life*

In the beginning...

- Aruba, September 10, 1992 -

I came to Aruba in 1978. It was a small, sleepy island. This was before the Sasaki Highway. We just had a boulevard then. It was before the traffic lights and the fast-food restaurants.

De Palm Island was a mangrove swamp, there was ample parking in the downtown area, and a large bird sanctuary could be found at Bubali. The Hi-Winds International Windsurfing Regatta and the June Jazz Festival were as yet unconceived.

The open-air fruit market only had some bruised oranges and tired-looking apples on display. There was often no lettuce to be found. Shopping was really a "store-hopping" experience, where I would drive around for hours from place to place in order to find the most basic foodstuffs on my list.

I spoke no Spanish and obviously not a single word of Papiamento. In fact, I had never even heard of Papiamento being a language. It sounded more like an exotic fruit or the capital of French Guiana. I believed in deep, dark-chocolate tans and piña coladas. I thought I was on a lifelong vacation.

Fourteen years have passed and I can read the daily paper in Papiamento. I know the names of all the streets in Oranjestad. I have a large aloe in front of my house, planted outside my gate for good luck and prosperity, just the way the locals do. I call my husband "Duda," my son "Papi," and everybody else "Dushi." On my birthday, I do not expect any gifts; instead, I treat all my friends to bite-size snacks and sugar-frosted cake, just the way the locals do when they "make" birthday. I love *pastechi*—deep-fried, spicy, elephant-ear pastry pockets—for BREAKFAST and have my coffee "full house," loaded with sugar and thick evaporated milk, just the way the locals do. I call the air-conditioning unit "airco." I show up late for every meeting, yes, just the way the locals do.

A weekly column written by me on island life is appearing today for the first time. Kindly address your comments and welcome opinions to Rona Coster by writing to *The News* or via fax no. 26125. •

10 | ARUBA'S BEST-KEPT DIARY

ISLAND *life*

11 | ARUBA'S BEST-KEPT DIARY

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- Coconuts (beachside at Barcelo Resort)
- De Wit & Van Dorp Stores (incl. Airport)
- T.H. Palm & Company (streetside at Playa Linda Beach Resort)
- A Taste of Aruba (next to The Lazy Lizard in South Beach)
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# Tamarijn Aruba All Inclusive's renovations give guests an EXCLUSIVE experience!

Divi's Tamarijn Aruba All Inclusive is proving that all-inclusive is exclusive! The resort recently underwent impressive renovations and updates to its all-inclusive products to further enhance the guest experience. Upscale amenities, inspired dining, and stylish accommodations highlight the enriched experience guests can look forward to.

In the lobby, where the floor comes to life with a unique, virtual underwater display, modern and spacious lounge areas and a contemporary reception area await. The 236 oceanfront rooms, each with a private balcony or patio, have been updated with modern accents and furnishings.

In addition to Ginger, with Asian-fusion cuisine, and Paparazzi, featuring rustic, Italian cooking, guests can now enjoy brick-oven pizzas and cocktails from the Pizza Bar. The Cunucu Terrace is graced with a modern décor, expanded seating inside and on the outside terrace, and new induction-cooking and à la carte stations offering fresh fish, steaks, and rotisserie chicken. The new Palm Grill, where guests can prepare their own fresh fish, steaks, and chicken on interactive hibachi-style tables, is set by the sea with spectacular views and a façade created by world-renowned 3D artist Leon Keer. Divi's trendy pool deck sports new lounges and sun cabanas to round out the perfect Caribbean vacation under the sun!









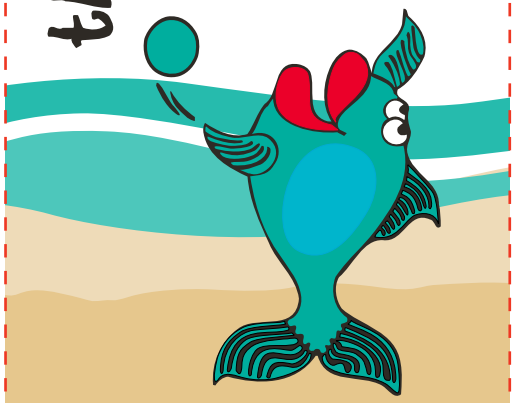



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For information, call 297.583.6000 ext 6176 or visit renaissancearubaspa.com.

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# Pepia Est goes green

Pepia Est is Aruba's first wholesaler to go "green." With the addition of recently installed solar panels, the implementation of a paperless invoice system, and the transition to all-LED lighting, the company is doing its best to lessen its environmental footprint.

The company also offers an extensive line of organic products, including organic wine labels, such as DeLoach Winery from the Russian River Valley in California; Domaine Carneros from Napa Valley, California; and Del Maguey Mezcal from Oaxaca, Mexico. Pepia Est also conducts trainings for bar staff in the field of organic cocktails and will be happy to teach the art of making "green" cocktails to any bartender who signs up.






# Renaissance Island adds luxurious touches









It's an island's island! The luxurious Renaissance Island recently received a gorgeous refresh, with delightful additions and special touches. On the private island's Flamingo Beach, an adults-only area, four new wood cabanas are perched overlooking the sea. Outfitted with chaise lounges, beach towels, sodas and bottled water, hammocks hanging over the water, and steps leading to the sea, three of the cabanas accommodate four guests, while one accommodates six. A butler dedicated to the area is entrusted with cocktail and food service. There is also the Mangrove Bar, with a variety of food and beverage offerings.

The island's Papagayo Bar & Grill, located on Iguana Beach, was renovated and features a large deck overlooking the water with décor in calming colors inspired by the sea, and accents like wooden lamps and driftwood.

Renaissance Island is home to the private Spa Cove, beach-tennis courts, and a fitness facility, and offers a variety of watersports. Stay tuned for more exciting amenities and adventures on the horizon at Renaissance Island.



# Renovations at The Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino

The Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino recently completed an extensive, 18-month, multi-million-dollar renovation project, updating everything from its rooms and suites, to its restaurants, common areas, and lush tropical grounds.

Each of the resort's 357 guest rooms and suites have been refreshed with neutral and earth tones, new furniture, plush bedding, and original art inspired by historical images.

The pool decks now feature cabanas with new trellises, daybeds, and lounge furniture. The oversized cabanas, designed for functions, include a hospitality desk, TV, and lounging areas.










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# Menu *temptations*

## RESTAURANT GUIDE

On the following pages, a selection
of our favorite restaurants & menus

## MEXICADO

Mexicado
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Mexicado is a lively Mexican restaurant in Aruba with a friendly environment. The menu features authentically prepared regional dishes showcasing Mexico's most inspiring flavors. The truly ethnic Palm Beach, Aruba restaurant offers an array of elevated market foods along with a comprehensive tequila selection, including a list of handcrafted tequila cocktails. Outdoor lounge, bar and restaurant seating are available

### Main Attractions

**TACOS**

**Taco Dorado**
Seared white catch fish, ice berg, chipotle mayonnaise, guacamole, corn..... $15.00

**Taco Carnitas**
Slow braised pork, cilantro, onion, guacamole, corn tortillas..... $14.00

**CHEVICHES**

**Colima Ceviche**
Grouper with lemon juice, red onion, tomatoes, cilantro, serrano chili..... $16.00

**Alcachofas y Zetas Ceviches**
Mozzarella cheese, champignon, pancetta, Kalamata olive, oregano..... $14.00

**BURRITOS**
Consisting of a wheat flour tortilla wrapped or folded into a cylindrical shape to completely enclose the filling. All served with rice, charro beans Mexican cheese, topped with queso fundido, lettuce, queso fresco, pico de gallo.
Beef, Chicken, Broken Shrimp Acapulco, Vegetarian and mixed chicken and Beef..... $24.00 - $35.00

**FAJITAS**
All served with chile poblano, cilantro, onion, peppers, pico de gallo, flour tortilla, and guacamole.
Chicken, Beef top Round, Shrimp, Mixed Chicken and Beef, Season Vegetable..... $26.00 - $35.00

**CAZUELAS**
Served with rice, charro beans and flour tortillas

**Mariscos 49**
Half lobster, shrimp, scallops, clams, grouper with chipotle tomato sauce, sweet peppers, onions cilantro..... $49.00

**A la veracruzana**
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## PAMPERED IN PARADISE

# PAMPERED *in* PARADAISE



Imagine dining in your own private paradise, with the sea at your feet, under the star studded sky, tiki torches creating a glow on the sand and a private butler to see to your every need. Often imitated, but never quite the same, this incomparable romantic event will charm you from the moment you are escorted to your private table on the beach. The name truly says it all - there is no other dining extravaganza to compare to our own Pampered in Paradise. Relish the flavors of your perfectly prepared four-course meal, served in a leisurely, unobtrusive manner that allows you to relax, enjoy each bite, and create memories to cherish for a lifetime.

### Start your meal off with...

### Dinner - Pre - Fix Menu..... $85.00

**STARTERS (Choice of)**

**Duo Lobster Crab Cakes**
Served with pickled onions, herbs, remoulade sauce

**Cherry Tomato Caprese**
Arugula, fresh local tomatoes, fresh Mozarella, herbs oil, balsamic reduction

**Mediterranean Sald**
Tomatoes, cucumber, onion, feta cheese, black olives and mixed greens with raspberry vinaigrette

**Scallops "a la plancha"**
Fresh ginger, coriander, papaya, coconut milk, chili, cilantro, red onions and lime

**Dutch Onion Soup**
Spek, Sweet Onion, Gouda gratinée

**ROYAL ENTREES (Choice of)**

**Seared Grouper Filet**
Roasted almonds, beans, broccoli, carrots, fennel salad, tomato comfit and potatoes

**Manhattan Strip Steak**
Linguini, asparagus, tomatoes, broken shrimps, green peppercorn, cream sauce

**Roasted Supreme Chicken Breast**
Steamed broccoli, carrots, squash, creole potatoes and cabernet sauce

**Seafood Linguini**
Shrimps, scallops, mussels, clams, fresh parsley, basil in original Alfredo or marinara sauce

**Clasic Duo**
Grilled filet mignon, cabernet sauce with fresh Caribbean lobster tail and garlic broccoli, dushi mashed potatoes and café D'Paris butter

**SWEET AT HEART (Choice of )**

**Cheese Cake Duo,** Cheesecake with brownies and berry compote
**Tiramisu,** Coffee cream and Kahlua
**Apple Pie,** Dulce de leche ice cream l almonds croucant and caramel sauce
**Lava Cake,** Vanilla ice cream and Ganache sauce

**Regular coffee l decaf or assorted teas**

### and much more...

*Prices are in US$, excluding 17% service charge and local tax, as well as a set-up fee of $50 per couple.*

### Dining Information

**HOURS**
Open daily except Sunda. Seatings are available at 6:30 pm and 7:00 pm

**RESERVATIONS**
Please reserve at 011.297.586-1234 ext. 54
or email advernture.concierge@hyatt.com
www.aruba.hyatt.com

**Inquire about your gift!**



## CAFÉ PICCOLO

café piccolo



Café Piccolo is a cozy Italian bistro with an elegant show kitchen and an intimate atmosphere. Our authentic Italian restaurant lights up the wood fired, stone oven every night to serve mouthwatering pizzas, along with the succulent pastas, antipastos and wines. Check out our menu for specialty prepared dishes made with fresh seasonal ingredients from local farmers. An extensive selection of wine and beverages are available by the bottle.

### Start your meal off with...

#### First Steps

**CALAMARI FRITTI ALLA DIAVOLA** $14.00
Fried squid, Madam Jeanette marinara, lime

**INVOLTINI DI MELANZANE E POMODORO SALSA**
Eggplant, ricotta, mozzarella cheese, spinach, fresh homemade pomodoro sauce, basil $14.00

**PEPPERONI BREAD** $16.00
Sourdough bread, mozzarella & parmesan cheese spicy pomodoro sauce, parsley

**PIZZETTA** All Pizzas will be served with fresh homemade Pizza sauce

**Carciofialla Griglia** $20.00
Grilled artichoke, panceta, cherry tomato, pesto black olives

**Prosciutto e Arugula** $21.00
Mozzarella cheese, prosciutto di Parma, arugula, extra virgin olive oil

### Entrees

**RISOTTO CON GAMBERETTI E ASPARAGO** $21.00
Baby shrimp, asparagus, grana Padano cheese, butter

**DENTICE ROSSO CON FUSILLI E PESTO** $24.00
Red snapper, fresh spinach, pine nutes, pesto, cherry tomato

**RAVIOLI FORMAGGIO CON ARAGOSTA FRESCO E POMODORO SALSA** $49.00
Cheese ravioli, braised lobster (6 oz.), fresh homemade pomodoro sauce, garlic, basil

### Desserts

**TIRAMISU** $13.00

**CANNOLI** $11.00

**PANNA COTTA** $13.00

**TORTA DI FICO** $11.00

### and much more...

*Prices are in US$, excluding 15% service charge as well as sales/health tax.*

### Dining Information

**HOURS:**
6:00 pm – 10:00 pm. Open daily except Wednesday

**RESERVATIONS**
Please reserve at 011.297.586-1234 ext. 36
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## RUINAS DEL MAR

Ruinas del Mar



Ruins by the Sea, is Hyatt Regency Aruba's signature restaurant offering contemporary cuisine in an open air environment. Guests are invited to enjoy menu items such as fresh seafood and steaks, hearth oven specialties, and a display of multiple food stations offering breakfast, Sunday Brunch, and special events. The design of Ruinas del Mal pays homage to several original Aruban architectural elements including caliche stone and the use of water in design

### Start your meal off with...

**MARYLAND CRAB CAKE** $17.00
Served with remoulade sauce, mandarin

**BAKED BRIE** $15.00
Local Honey, cranberry compote, candy pecan, whole grain crackers

**MUSSELS SALAD** $14.00
Kanikama osaki crab, greens, diced tomato, celery, kalamata olives, cucumber, cider vinaigrette

### Main Attractions

**KANSAS RIB EYE STEAK** $48.00
Fresh mushroom, seasoned vegetables, mashed potatoes and demi-glace

**CEDAR PLANK SALMON FILET** $39.00
Shrimp and spinach risotto, roasted garlic oil

**CLASSIC DUO** $55.00
Grilled filet, cabernet sauce with fresh Caribbean lobster tail & garlic broccoli, dushi mashed potatoes and Café de Paris butter

**FRESH CATCH** Market price
Sustainable seafood simply prepared with side of the day

**BROILED LOBSTER TAIL** $57.00
Mashed potato, asparagus, local roasted tomato, clarified butter

**ROASTED LAMB CHOP** $47.00
Pumpkin and goat cheese risotto, asparagus, drizzle of amaretto served with mint demi-glace sauce

### and much more...

*Prices are in US$, excluding 15% service charge as well as sales/health tax.*

### Dining Information

**HOURS**
6:00 pm – 10:30pm. Open daily except Sunday
7:30 am - 12 pm. Open for breakfast daily except Sundays
9:00 am - 2:00 pm. Open Sundays for Champagne Brunch

**RESERVATIONS**
Please reserve at 011.297.586-1234 ext. 36
or email advernture.concierge@hyatt.com
www.aruba.hyatt.com

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# Menu Temptations

## IKE'S BISTRO

Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa Aruba

Ike's bistro
MEDITERRANEAN & CARIBBEAN



Enjoy a modern twist on Mediterranean cuisine, Caribbean style, with Aruba's most talented, chef Sandro Herold, paying homage to the late resort founder, award winning hotelier Ike Cohen. With seating on the garden terrace or around the tropical pool, the restaurant overlooks the beach and the Caribbean ocean. Ike's Bistro experience is enchanting and all menu items are extremely enticing. Undecided guests may opt for the tasting menu of 4 or 5 smaller portions of the chef's seasonal specialties.

### Start your meal off with...

**CAPRESE AND PESTO**
Buffalo mozzarella, cherry tomato, sweet tomato basil relish and home-made pesto espuma

**OCTOPUS A LA GRIGLIA**
Grilled Octopus from Italy, red quinoa, orange wedge, cherry tomatoes, fresh herbs and squid-ink aioli

**GREEN GAZPACHO**
Cucumber & honeydew melon gazpacho, basil, organic sea salt, olive oil and herb croutons

**SCALLOPS AND COCONUT FOAM**
Pan-fried herb crusted scallops, avocado puree, red pepper cilantro salsa and coconut foam

### Main Attractions

**SHRIMP A LA BRAVA**
Slightly spicy shrimp, boiled potatoes, fresh basil, creamy spicy sauce, grilled pita bread

**SEA BASS**
Pan-seared Chilean sea bass with sautéed spinach, quinoa, cauliflower and coconut saffron sauce

**LAMB**
Crusted lamb chops, couscous, mint, green beans, corn and creamy pesto sauce

**LAND & SEA**
Grilled filet of beef & sautéed shrimp with garlic mashed potato, creamy spinach and lobster sauce

### Desserts

**ORANGE CATALANA**
Vanilla custard flavored with orange zest topped with a thinly crisp caramel layer

**PASSION FRUIT PARFAIT AND BERRIES**
Passion fruit parfait, wild berries, lime sauce and coconut ice cream

### and much more...

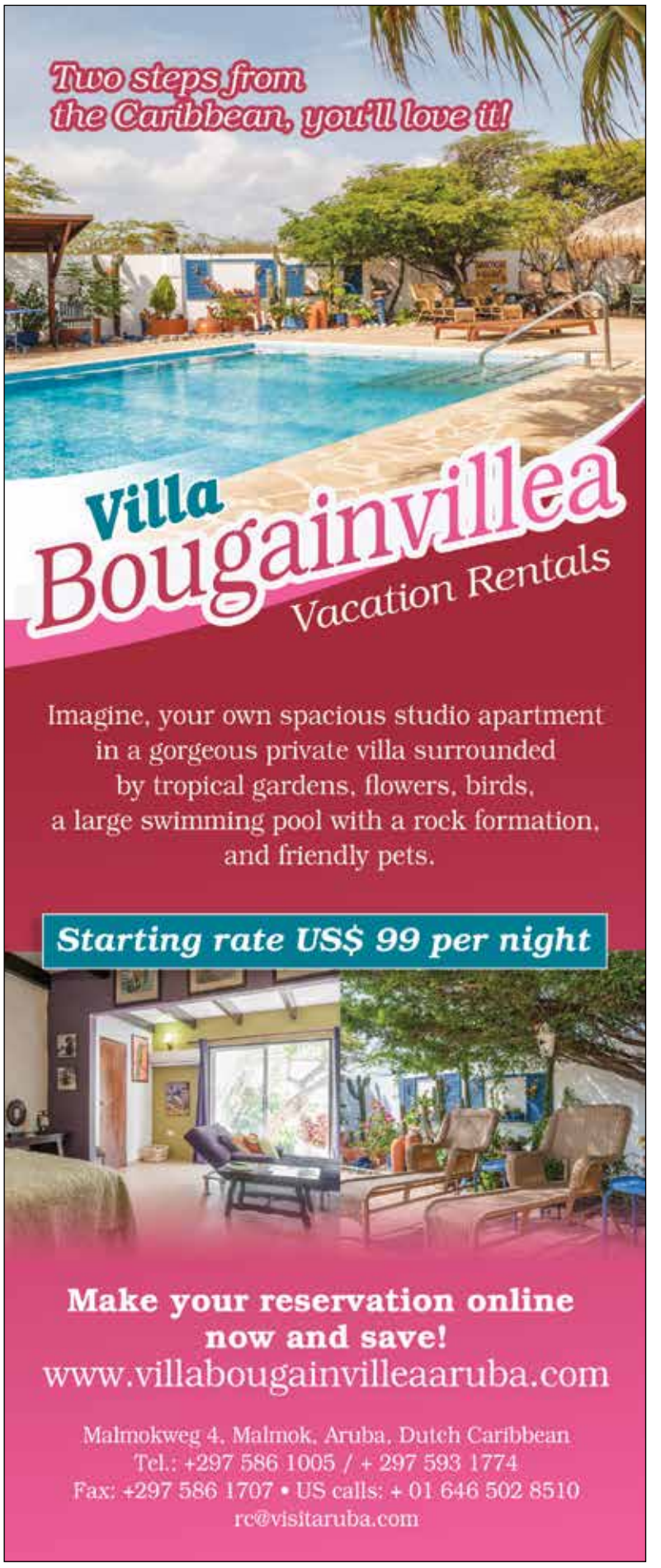
*All prices are in U.S Dollars. A 15% service charge will be added to your check.*

### Dining Information

**HOURS**
Dinner: 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

**RESERVATIONS**
Tel: +297 582-3444 ext. 203
Email: ikesbistro@manchebo.com
www.manchebo.com



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